

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01958 111544Z

64

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SY-04 /076 W

----- 109367

R 111517Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2835

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA DECON 2/11/76

TAGS: PINS PLO XF IT

SUBJ: REPORTED EXECUTION OF PALESTINIAN TERRORIST LEADER

REF: STATE 29915

1. PLO REP'S CLAIM THAT HIS ORGANIZATION HAS "EXECUTED" LEADER OF ROME AIRPORT ATTACK PROBABLY WAS REFERENCE TO THE LATE AHMED ABDEL GHAFOR (ABU MAHMOUD), RENEGADE FATAH TERRORIST LUMINARY WHO WAS ASSASSINATED ON BEIRUT STREET BY FATAH INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVES IN SEP 1974. THERE HAD BEEN VARIOUS REPORTS OF HIS INVOLVEMENT, WITH LIBYAN BACKING, IN DEC 1973 ROME AIRPORT MASSACRE. HOWEVER, WE RECALL THAT ABDEL GHAFOR WAS ASSASSINATED NOT BECAUSE OF HIS EARLIER TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, BUT BECAUSE HE WAS SUSPECTED OF BEING RINGLEADER IN PLOT BY DISSIDENT FATAH ELEMENTS TO KILL YASIR 'ARAFAT.

2. WOULD APPEAR THAT PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS BY PLO SPOKESMEN ANXIOUS TO ENHANCE PLO'S "ANTI-TERRORIST" IMAGE ARE CUFF ASSESSMENT, FOR WHAT IT WORTH, IS THAT PLO REP IN PISTORIA--PROBABLY UNDER SOME PRESSURE FROM HIS AUDIENCE TO
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DEMONSTRATE PLO'S SERIOUSNESS ABOUT PUNISHING TERRORISTS--
CHOSE TO EMBROIDER PLO'S RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS FOR HIS OWN

CONVENIENCE. AS NOTED IN OUR 1443, THOSE PRONOUNCEMENTS
IMPLIED THAT ANOTHER OF ABDEL GHAFfour'S EARLIER TERRORIST
ACTIVITIES (IN AUG 1974 IN DUBAI) WAS REASON FOR HIS "EXECUTION".
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXECUTIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, LIBERATION FRONTS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750050-0078
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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